

Is God...Your Everything?



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Sunday, March 28, 2010



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Ecclesiastes 1:9 - What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

Gangs have a long and complex history.

- A new wave of urban street gangs were formed in the American urban ghettos in the late 1960's, while the United States attempted to fight both the Vietnam War and the war on poverty at home. Limited funding and escalated police and military violence against minorities and immigrants all aided towards the conditions which would eventually give birth to gangs.
- The Crips were formed out of the poor socio-economic and repressive conditions. The Bloods quickly followed, with a mandate to protect the community from external violence.
- As job cuts continued to rise and employers began to hire from the cheaper labor pool of the expanding Latino immigrant community, unemployment rates of African-American men reached as high as 50%. The increasing social isolation felt by African-American communities across the nation continued unabated in the 1980's and 90's, leading to higher rates of social pathologies, including violence.

Land and Injustice

- Peasant Jews living in Israel depended on land for their security and livelihood. The Romans who were in control demanded the peasants to generate an excess of harvest. Yet, it was stolen from the ruling elite by means of taxation and used for their benefit and profit.
- Many Jews were frequently required to become farmers on the very land that had belonged to their ancestors for generations. They could either accept Roman oppression, injustice, and slavery, or reject oppression and taxes, and thus become an enemy of the empire.

The Bandits

- Those specific Jews who resisted Roman oppression often did so by resorting to banditry. Banditry was one of the most universal social phenomena known to history.
- Bandits attained their name when they left their families and friends and tried to change things that they did not like. They basically operate primarily within human violence alone.

Jesus' Response to the Jews

- Prayer
- Humility before God
- The Blessings that come from God
- His Totality
 - Bread - "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger." (John 6:35)
 - Light - "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)
 - Gate - "I am the gate; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:9)
 - Good Shepherd - "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep." (John 10:11)
 - Resurrection and Life - "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies." (John 11:25)
 - Way, Truth, Life - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)
 - True vine - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1)

The Results

- In the year 66, Florus, the last Roman procurator, stole vast quantities of silver from the temple. The outraged Jewish masses rioted and wiped out the small Roman garrison stationed in Jerusalem. This was a heartening victory and thus many Jews suddenly became convinced that they could defeat Rome. The Zealots' ranks grew geometrically.
- When the Romans returned, they had 60,000 heavily armed and highly professional troops. They launched their first attack against the Jewish state's most radicalized area, the Galilee in the north. The Romans vanquished the Galilee, and an estimate 100,000 Jews were killed or sold into slavery. During the summer of 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed the Jew's temple. This was the final and most devastating Roman blow against Judea. It is projected that as many as one million Jews died in the revolt against Rome.

The Question

Is God... Your Everything

"You're all I want, You're all I need
You're everything, everything"